

# GOLMAN'S RURAL WORLD

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The cold wave, the severest thus far of the season, which swept over the country the early part of the present week has occasioned some anxiety as to the effect on fruit and winter grain. At this writing the temperature has not been such as to injure fruit buds, unless it be that the unusually mild weather which prevailed for some weeks previous to the cold snap developed a tenderness which would make the buds easily susceptible to cold. Fear of injury to the wheat is occasioned by the general lack of snow protection, but we think the plant has unusual vitality and will be able to withstand the ill effects of the cold wave.

The Arkansas State Horticultural Society will hold its twentieth annual meeting in Little Rock, Feb. 7-9. An unusual effort is being put forth to make this the best and most important meeting of the society has ever held. An excellent program has been arranged, which will include subjects of such vital interest to Arkansas horticulturists that there should and doubtless will be a large attendance from all parts of the state. There will be reduced railroad rates on all roads reaching Little Rock, and reduced hotel rates. S. H. Nowlin, Little Rock, is the president, and Will L. Harding is secretary, either of whom will gladly give further information regarding this meeting.

## OLEOMARGARINE.

In response to an inquiry from the National House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Treasury states that the total shipments of oleomargarine (for the year 1899 we presume) were 79,677,714 pounds.

To supply this weight of butter in twelve months would require not less than 400,000 cows, distributed on 20,000 farms, allowing to each farm 20 cows.

By the, for the most part, unlawful competition of these millions of pounds of oleomargarine, being sold largely in the guise of and for butter, and the discouraging effect upon the dairy business, there are probably 1,000,000 cows in the United States that are kept principally for raising calves for beef purposes, which but for the oleomargarine business would be devoted to dairying. And yet the less than a dozen millionaire makers of oleomargarine (as a side line) who have absorbed the business of 20,000 or more dairy farmers, and thus compelled them largely to become hog and cattle raisers, have made the stockmen believe that the true bogus butter makers, were the friends of the beef and pork raisers by adding to the selling value of their cattle and hogs. Who does not know that these also makers and meat packers will take advantage to the smallest fraction of a cent of the influence of a large run of cattle and hogs to market? That but a small proportion of the ingredients of oleomargarine come from the animals slaughtered for meat? That if the bogus butter makers can kill off the large bulk of the dairy business and drive the dairymen to cattle and hog raising, they will by this simple means hold the farming interests of this land in the hollow of their hands?

Dairying, in the relatively large amount of skilled labor it employs at home; in its facilities for consuming on the farm the coarse products of the soil and compressing these into the smallest compass for transportation; in its effect in maintaining the fertility of the soil; in its effect on the community by permitting small farms and the consequent results of near neighbors, good roads, schools and churches; in its supplying to the world three of the most important nutritious and healthful articles of human food, milk, butter and cheese; in its rapidly growing importance as an aid to the pork raiser in producing the quality of meat demanded by home as well as foreign markets; in its supply of calves to the steer feeder, is one of the most important of human industries. Is it to be throttled in the interest of a few wealthy individuals who are engaged in making an imitation food article which can only find sale by deceit and fraud?

## A MEASURE TO IMPROVE

The United States Weather Bureau.

Although of comparatively recent organization on a purely meteorological basis, the United States Weather Service has become, as the Weather Bureau in the Department of Agriculture, one of the most important branches of the Federal service. Very few, indeed, are they who have any conception of the scope and value of this service, extending as it does from points almost within the Arctic circle nearly to the Equator, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and conveying daily

## SPECIAL OFFER.

While the regular subscription price for the RURAL WORLD will remain at one dollar per year, yet, in order to more than double our present circulation for the year 1900 we have determined for a brief period to allow all of our present subscribers to renew their subscriptions by sending the name of a NEW subscriber with their own for one dollar—thus getting two papers for one year for only one dollar. In all cases, however, the additional name or names must be new subscribers. Renewals will not be received at fifty cents, except when accompanied by a new subscriber. Two NEW subscribers at the same time, however, will be received for one year for one dollar. New subscribers can also send additional new subscribers on the same terms. This is below the actual cost of the paper. But so anxious are we to have the RURAL WORLD enter tens of thousands of new homes that we are willing to make this low offer. We know the RURAL WORLD is doing a grand work in uplifting the farmer, and we are more than anxious that its benefits shall be extended to the widest limits, hence this special offer. We hope to have 100,000 subscribers on our list for 1900.

to innumerable places within these confines information regarding the weather which will affect favorably or otherwise the health of 70,000,000 of people and business interests of a value that is beyond human comprehension.

The Weather Bureau is credited yearly with having saved thousands of human lives, particularly among those engaged in ocean and lake traffic, and millions of dollars worth of property—land and sea by its system of storm warnings. That these warnings shall be timely and not misleading necessitates the utmost vigilance on the part of the observers of the Bureau, a faithfulness to duty and a degree of intelligence not demanded by any other branch of the Federal Service.

It is for these and other considerations that a bill has lately been introduced in the House of Representatives by Hon. James W. Wadsworth, Chairman Committee on Agriculture (H. R. Bill No. 3386), providing for a reorganization of the Weather Bureau and introducing more thoroughly than heretofore the merit system as the basis of promotion, providing for retirement after periods of service, and for a fund from which to pay those retired a certain per cent of the salary previously drawn. This fund is to come from deducting a certain per cent from the salary of each of the employees of the Weather Service, this to be placed in the national treasury and there held for the purpose specified.

The purposes of the bill are, we think, very worthy, and if enacted must add even to the present high degree of intelligence and character of the employees of the Weather Bureau.

The work of this Bureau is such as to call into its service young men who can only hope to reach the higher ranks through years of close study, such as will largely prevent the acquisition of knowledge which will fit them for other lines of work. Being subject, too, to ordines in any line to go from one station to another, is a bar to the acquisition of property and the establishment of a permanent home.

In view of the fact that the proposed retirement fund will not cost the Government anything, and of the merits of this bill otherwise, it would seem that there should be no objection to its passage.

## SOME FARM LEAKS.

The farm is a gigantic enterprise, and some men who can successfully conduct mercantile ventures might utterly fail on the farm, because there are so many more places in which leaks may occur. Merchandising requires concentration of thought on but few important issues compared to those exacted from the successful farmer. It takes a "big man" mentality to be known as a prosperous farmer; and many a man known in business circles in the city as a man of means, might not be "big enough" to farm. Only the man of large and broad conceptions can prevent the financial losses occurring from the leakage by waste and neglect.

The waste from improper feeds and feeding, if numerically stated would be appalling. Some of the leaks are feeding indiscriminate feeds, excessive feeding, under feeding, feeding in a wasteful manner, their name is legion. The question of shelter if not wisely solved will be a leakage that is only evidence in the

statement, "the cattle took so much feed that they didn't pay." There are hosts of leaks due to ignorance of facts, and these we strive to excuse because "we didn't know."

But there is a want of knowledge on the part of many farmers for which in a large measure they are responsible. But there are leaks that spring from neglect, we had almost said laziness. The hen house door cannot be fastened, or mayhap swings on one hinge. The gate stands by the fence or lies in the mud; a neighbor's stray stock spends the night, in consequence, around your stacks or at your corn crib. The statement, frequently made in anger, that the neighbor should keep his stock up in all right, but what about the gate? The harness is left where it is easily put, and the farmer can easily get it, and so can that "peaky" calf. Tools are kept where last used, it was so "handy" to leave them, and equally as easy to forget where that was. But what of the time lost in hunting for the saw or chisel when next wanted? Recently while in a large mercantile establishment we noted the desks of the clerks, and they were most suggestive. Pencils, pens for different uses, blotting pads, money of different denominations, rules, sponges for moistening the fingers, to the more expeditiously handle the notes, and all the paraphernalia of desk work were kept in specially appointed places and were automatically taken from them to be used and—yes, religiously, if not from force of habit, returned to them after the using. The immense amount of work being accomplished was due to this perfect system and order. The rapidity with which it was done almost made one's head swim, but closer observation revealed the fact that the deftness with which much of it was done was because of the "place for everything and everything in its place" plan. Here is just a hint of the leaks that occur or are liable to occur on the farm. The "bigness" of farming must be appreciated and teen provision will be made for stopping the leaks and also for preventing them.

## PRACTICAL FARM PAPER NO. 5.

Editor RURAL WORLD: This is a foggy, damp morning, tobacco is not in case for stripping, room stove is not set up. We don't believe in exposing to cold and damp, just one in order to say that we beat some one else finishing up a job of work. A single day's work in a muddy field or in a cold barn is very liable to lay a man or boy up when the days are better suited to work.

I spent last week at institute work, although I am not on the regular force, this season I had calls to two meetings and never spent more profitable time.

People are greatly interested in cow peas, in fact, if speakers treated on no other topic during the entire two days' meetings the audiences would listen patiently and would ask hundreds of questions. The best talk I heard was from a man who began his speech in a manner which indicated that he was disgusted with the whole cow pea business and every one connected with it. He had undertaken to make his stock eat green cow peas when just past the blossoming stage. Then his sheep got into the patch and ate up the weeds never touching the peas. When his crop ripened and he fed the hay and the ground peas with the best results from any feeding stuff he had ever known, he was a convert. This man said that when he fed pea hay and ground peas to milk cattle, the same amount of milk or cream, which upon other feed made four pounds of butter made five.

Most farmers in Ohio clip young clover with the mowing machine in August, and one speaker advised that this always be done if the clover showed a tendency to mature and seed. He said "clover is often do on rich soil. He said 'clover is an annual, a biennial or a perennial plant as circumstances determine. If clover is allowed to mature seed it dies, even if it is of only four months' growth, prevent it from seeding and it can be made to last several years. I did not clip one six-acre plot last summer and when I came home I found that in several places where the clover had seeded it was dead."

A fine feature of one substitute was the reading of a paper on "Nursing in Scarlet Fever," by a trained nurse and hospital nurse. It is a pity that all parents in the United States could not listen to such lectures. A few years ago our home was invaded by this fell disease. The doctors were losing about one case in seven. We did not call a physician and saved our seven, but it was nursing that did it; a six-weeks' fight and not a single neighbor dared come near us. I don't blame them a bit. There was our treatment:

**FEVER MIXTURE.**  
Sulphate quinine.....15 grains  
Chlorate Potassium.....30 grains  
Tincture aconite.....10 drops  
Spirits nitrous ether.....8 drams

Syrup to make two fluid ounces, dose half teaspoon every three hours for child of three years.

We kept the bowels open with castor oil and castoria; in case of manifest weakness we gave 10 drops of whisky. This drink was lemonade with a few drops of sweet spirits of niter in it. When the fever fell and the skin began to roughen we greased the patient from head to foot with goose grease, cocoa butter is a good substitute. The only bad after-results we had was some swelling of the joints in

two cases, but this disappeared as warm weather came.

We also had a fine talk at one of our institutes on "Rural Home Advancement." The speaker told us how we may cheaply beautify our grounds with shrubs and plants; no need to buy high-priced novelties; the woods abound with plants as beautiful as any in the florists' collection and with these alone we may brighten our yards and lawns.

Just after this talk a "sweet girl graduate" recited a most harrowing poem, of a drunken father, who crushed out the life of a golden-haired child. I have no words for drunken fathers or drunken "anybodies," but consider such recitations entirely out of place at Farmers' Institutes.

At these meetings we need instruction on practical lines, entertaining talks and recitations may serve to brighten things up and break the monotony, but have all such of a class that is not calculated to make people feel bad and sick at heart.

Brown Co., O. C. D. LYON.

We warmly endorse Mr. Lyon's position in respect to the character of the recitations which should be had at farmers' institutes.

## AGRICULTURAL WISDOM.

Editor RURAL WORLD: If to the eye of taste a waste, uncultivated field is repulsive, what to the eye of education judgments is a waste, neglected mind? What opportunities for benefiting the possessor, his neighbor, his country and his age, lie fallow and unmimored. Here are energies but stimulating the growth of noxious weeds; these the barrenness of death. Such do we daily see around us among the young men—the young farmers of our land. They know not or heed not the opportunities for improvement that surround them, that press upon them, nay, that solicit their acceptance of the boon of culture. How many of them have yet to learn that "an enlightened people understand that in our age, culture is the only true distinction among nations," and equally among individuals which compose the nation.

Why should agricultural populations continue to be groping backward and downward instead of forward and upward; a digging among old fossils rather than penetrating originalities? Why should not farmers become intellectual and progressive? Does not superior intelligence in farming, as in every other calling, make the better workman? Do not the well-being and progress of the country depend upon the farmers, and their wise application of the teachings of advancing science? A man may be a farmer, no doubt, in most unblended ignorance of the physical phenomena occurring around him; but he cannot be a farmer without experiencing the helpful effects of intelligence in farming, as in every other calling, make the better workman? Do not the well-being and progress of the country depend upon the farmers, and their wise application of the teachings of advancing science? 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